



U.S. Congressman Bobby Jindal, his wife, Supriya, and son Shaan celebrate his historic election as governor of the southern state of Louisiana on October 20. Jindal, whose parents are from Punjab, becomes the youngest-ever U.S. state governor, a post similar to a chief minister in India. When he takes the oath of office in January, he will also be the first Indian American governor, and the first non-white to hold Louisiana's highest post in more than 100 years. Jindal last visited India in 2006.

NEWS SCAPE

The American jazz-fusion group Steve Smith and Vital Information wowed a packed house at New Delhi's American Center on October 19 and at other venues across India. Guitarist Vinny Valentino, bass player Baron Browne, keyboardist Tom Coster and drummer Smith also generously shared their extensive experience with Indian music fans and students, chatting over meals and conducting workshops during their tour.



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As a Fulbright scholar in New Delhi for the past year, artist Carol Reed has worked with a community of rural artists to develop art lessons for underprivileged children, but also found time to complete a series of paintings that will be on display at the American Center in New Delhi from December 7-14. "Although abstract, the images are somewhat whimsical, inspired by ordinary objects, and are my visual response to the color and light of this environment," she says. <http://www.fulbright-india.org/>



MADAN MAHATTA

Gaurav Deep (left) and Carol Duffy Clay (right) are saying the same thing to an audience of hearing-impaired people who filled the American Center auditorium in New Delhi last month. But their hands are making different motions because sign language in India is different than in America. The audience viewed Clay's documentary, "DEAF: Hear Me," about deaf people getting an education, finding work and friends in New Delhi. Then they shared their experiences in a lively, though quiet, interaction afterward.



HEVANT BHATNAGAR

U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson, Jr. (center) chats with officials after launching a mobile phone smart card for villagers at Kripampur, near Kolkata, on October 28. During his visit later to Mumbai and New Delhi, he said the U.S.-India agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation is beneficial to both countries and "will provide India access to the technology which can help it reach its economic and environmental objectives."



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